Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 02682 110832Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 STR-07 ITC-01
CTME-00 JUSE-00 /111 W
----------079327 112006Z /45 43
R 110726Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2955
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2682

STATE PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, AS
SUBJ: FARMER - MEATWORKERS DISPUTE CONTINUES

REF: CANBERRA 2549

1. AUSTRALIAN WATERSIDE WORKERS (LONGSHOREMEN) AND MEAT WORKERS (PACKING HOUSE WORKERS) ARE THREATENING TO PULL OFF NATIONWIDE STRIKES IN RETALIATION OF NON-UNION (MILITANT FARMERS) LOADING OF LIVE SHEEP TO MIDDLE EAST BUYERS IN THE WEST WAUSTRALIAN PORT OF ALBANY. THE FARMERS ACTION LED TO THE ARREST OF 48 LONGSHOREMEN IN THE PORTS OF ALBANY AND FREEMENTLE WHO HAD SET UP PICKET LINES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 02682 110832Z

IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF THE LOADING.

2. THE MEATWORKERS UNION IS OPPOSING THE EXPORT OF LIVE SHEEP BECAUSE IT CLAIMS THIS WILL LEAD TO EVEN MORE UNEMPLOYMENT IN AN INDUSTRY WHICH HAS HAD SEVERE CUT-BACKS IN RECENT MONTHS. THE UNION IS INSISTING THAT AT LEAST TWO SHEEP BE SLAUGHTERED FOR EVERY LIVE ONE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

EXPORTED.

3. THE DISPUTES COMMITTEE OF THE AUSTRLAIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (A.C.T.U.) HEADED UP BY A.C.T.U. PRESIDENT BOB HAWKE, HAS SCHEDULED AN EMERGENCY MEETING TODAY IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PORT OF ADELAIDE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE AND DETERMINE A.C.T.U. COURSES OF ACTION.

4. THE TRANSPORT WORKERS AND RAILWAY UNION ARE ALSO THREATENING TO GET IN THE ACT WHILE SHEEP SHEARERS WHO BELONG TO THE AUSTRLIAN WORKERS UNION HAVE (SURPRISINGLY) SIDED WITH THE FARMERS.

COMMENT- THE DISPUTE HAS BEEN RECEIVING INTENSIVE NATION WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE. MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS HAS TERMED IT THE MOST DANGEROUS INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE SINCE WORLD WAR II.

5. A.C.T.U. PRESIDENT BOB HAWKE, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION TOLD THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THE ISSUE IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED AND HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME.

6.NEW SOUTH WALES A.C.T.U. LEADER JOHN DUCKER, ON APRIL 7, TOLD THE SYDNEY C.G. AND THE EMBASSY'S LABOR ATTACHE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THE ISSUE HAS ALL THE INGRED-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 02682 110832Z

IENTS FOR EXPLOSIVE ACTION; I.E. A UNION HEADED UP BY A WEAK ALCOHOLIC PRESIDENT WITH A NOTORIOUS COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER AS FEDERAL SECRETARY AND A LARGE MELBOURNE LOCAL IN THE HANDS OF AN UNBALANCED C.P. PRESIDENT. THE TRANSPORT WORKERS AND RAILWAY UNION ARE ALSO UNDER CONSIDERABLE C.P. INFLUENCE, WHILE THE FARMERS WHO SEE THEIR MARKET FOR OLD WETHERS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO DEMAND ON THE DOMESTIC MARKET THREATENED, ARE " SPOILING" FOR A FIGHT.

7. FURTHER GRIST FOR THE MILL IS THE FACT THAT WATERSIDE WORKES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PULLING OFF "QUICKIE" STOPPAGES IN SUPPORT OF THEIR DEMANDS FOR FULL WAGE INDEXATION AND AGAINST CONTAINERIZATION, WHILE THE SEAMEN'S UNION HAS BEEN UP IN ARMS OVER SHIPMENTS OF EXPORTS IN NON-AUSTRALIAN "BOTTOM"

8. PRIME MINISTER FRASER HAS ALSO BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE MEATWORKERS TO LIFT THE BANS BLOCKING LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS WORTH A REPORTED $300 MILLION ANNUALLY. FRASER TOLD THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 10 THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING SEVERAL AVENUES INCLUDING WIDENING

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SECTION 45D OF THE TRADE PRACTICES ACT WHICH PROHIBITS
SECONDARY BOYCOTTS, AND EXTENDING THE CONCILIATION AND
ARBITRATION ACT.
ALSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER02682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780156-0147
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780472/aaaacird.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 444f20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 2549
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3013960
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FARMER - MEATWORKERS DISPUTE CONTINUES
TAGS: ELAB, AS, ACTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/444f20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014